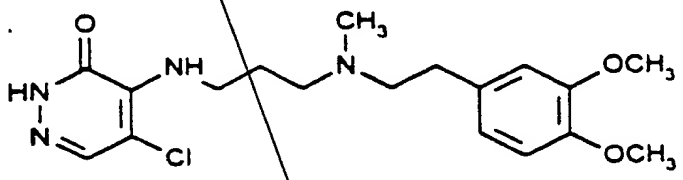
What we claim is:

1. A process for the preparation of 5-chloro-4-{3-[N-[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-ethyl]-N-methylamino]-propylamino}-3(2H)-pyridazinone of the formula (I)

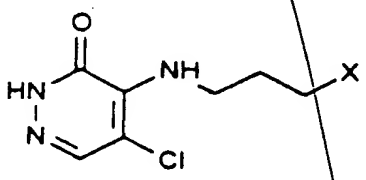


(I)

and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof,

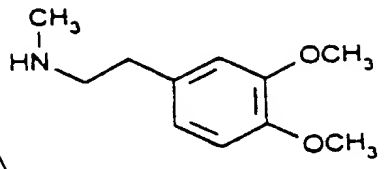
which comprises

a_1) reacting a compound of the general formula (II),



(II)

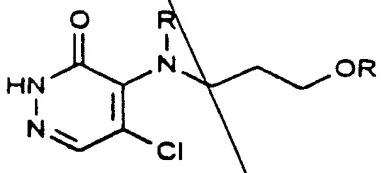
wherein X stands for a leaving group, with N-methyl-homoveratryl amine of the formula (VI);



(VI)

or

a_2) reacting a compound of the general formula (III),

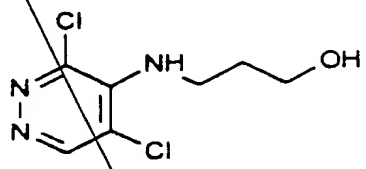


(III)

wherein R stands for lower alkanoyl, aroyl or aryl-(lower alkanoyl), with an agent containing a leaving group of the formula X and reacting the thus-obtained compound of the general formula (II) with the compound of formula (VI);

or

a_3) reacting 4-(3-hydroxypropylamino)-3,5-dichloro-pyridazine of the formula (IV)

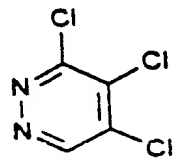


(IV)

with an agent suitable for introducing a group of the formula R, reacting the thus-obtained compound of general formula (III) with an agent containing a leaving group of the formula X and reacting the thus-obtained compound of general formula (II) with the compound of formula (VI);

or

a_4) reacting 3,4,5-trichloropyridazine of the formula (V)

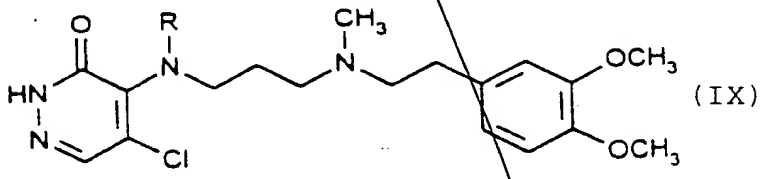


(V)

with 3-amino-1-propanol, reacting the thus-obtained compound of formula (IV) with an agent suitable for introducing a group of the formula R, reacting the thus-obtained compound of general formula (III) with an agent containing a leaving group of the formula X and reacting the thus-obtained compound of general formula (II) with a compound of the formula (VI);

or

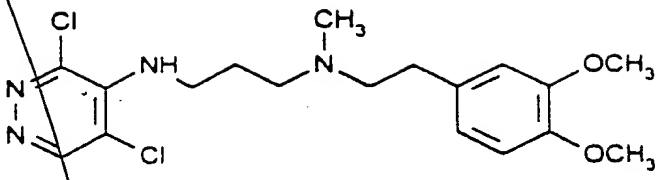
b_1) removing the group of the formula R (wherein R is as stated above) from a compound of general formula (IX);



(IX)

or

b_2) reacting the compound of formula (VIII)

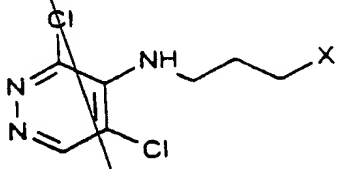


(VIII)

with an agent suitable for introducing a group of the formula R and removing the group of formula R from the thus-obtained compound of general formula (IX);

or

b_3) reacting a compound of the general formula (VII),



(VII)

wherein X is as stated above, with a compound of the formula (VI), reacting the thus-obtained compound of formula (VIII) with an agent suitable for introducing a group of the formula R, and removing the

group of the formula R from the thus-obtained compound of general formula (IX); or

b_4) reacting the compound of formula (IV) with an agent containing a leaving group of the formula X, reacting the thus-obtained compound of general formula (VII) with the compound of formula (VI), reacting the thus-obtained compound of general formula (VIII) with an agent suitable for introducing a group of the formula R and removing the group of the formula R from the thus-obtained compound of general formula (IX);

and, if desired, converting the thus-obtained compound of formula (I) into an acid addition salt thereof.

2. A process according to variant a_3) or a_4) of claim 1, which comprises reacting the compound of formula (IV) with an agent suitable for introducing an acetyl group.

3. A process as claimed in claim 2, which comprises carrying out the reaction with a mixture of acetic acid and sodium acetate.

4. A process as claimed in claim 3, which comprises carrying out the reaction at a temperature between 80 C^{o} and 110 C^{o}.

5. A process according to any of variants a_2) to a_4) of claim 1, which comprises reacting the compound of general formula (III) with an agent containing a halogen atom, an alkylsulfonyloxy or arylsulfonyloxy group, preferably a chlorine or bromine atom or a methanesulfonyloxy, benzylsulfonyloxy, p-toluenesulfonyloxy or p-bromophenylsulfonyloxy group.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5, which comprises reacting the compound of general formula (III) with hydrogen bromide.

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, which comprises carrying out the reaction at a

temperature between 80 C^{o} and 110 C^{o}.

8. A process according to variant a_3) or a_4) of claim 1, which comprises reacting the compound of formula (IV) without purification with the agent suitable for introducing a group of the formula R.

9. A process according to any of variants a_1) to a_4) of claim 1, which comprises carrying out the reaction of the compounds of formulae (II) and (VI) in a dipolar aprotic solvent, in the presence of an acid binding agent.

Sub A1

10. A process as claimed in claim 9, which comprises using as solvent acetone, acetonitrile or dimethylformamide and as acid binding agent an alkali carbonate, alkali hydrogen carbonate or an amine, preferably triethylamine or an excess of the reagent of formula (VI).

11. A process according to variant a_4) of claim 1, which comprises carrying out the reaction of the compound of formula (V) with 3-amino-1-propanol in a lower alcohol or a dipolar aprotic solvent, in the presence of an acid binding agent.

12. A process as claimed in claim 11, which comprises using as solvent ethanol, acetonitrile or dimethyl formamide and as acid binding agent an alkali carbonate, alkali hydrogen carbonate, an organic amine,preferably triethylamine or an excess of the 3-amino-1-propanol.

13. A process as claimed in claim 12, which comprises carrying out the reaction at a temperature between 50 C^{o} and 100 C^{o}.

14. The compound of formula (IV).

15. Compounds of the general formula (III), wherein R stands for a lower alkanoyl, aroyl or

aryl-(lower alkanoyl) group.

16. A compound of the general formula (III) according to claim 15, wherein R stands for acetyl.

17. Compounds of the general formula (II), wherein X stands for a leaving group.

18. A compound of the general formula (II) according to claim 17, wherein X stands for bromine.